

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01
AF-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /133 W
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P R 220944Z APR 77
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2411
INFO ALL OECD CAPS
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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ACTION STR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, JA
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' GENEVA VISIT

REF: GENEVA 2965

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR ROBERT STRAUSS CONCLUDED A SUCCESSFUL DAY AND A HALF VISIT IN GENEVA WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE STRESSING STRONG U.S. COMMITMENT TO FAR REACHING MTN RESULTS AND A START ON SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS PROMPTLY AFTER ECONOMIC SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS MET WITH GATT DG LONG AND DDG PATTERSON AND STRESSED THE THEME OF STRONG U.S. MTN COMMITMENT. LONG PREDICTABLY WAS PLEASED IN VIEW OF OUR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. DURING THE COURSE OF A FAIRLY ROUTINE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, LONG EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT CONTINUED U.S. INSISTENCE UPON LDC CONTRIBUTIONS IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS
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NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE TIMING OF PROPOSED TP MEETING FOR PERIOD BETWEEN SUMMIT AND CIEC MINISTERIAL HAD ANY RELEVANCE TO CIEC. HE PREDICTED THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD RAISE THE TEXTILES ISSUE IN THE CIEC CONTEXT, THOUGH HE WAS NOT SURE HOW THIS EFFORT WOULD MANIFEST ITSELF. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE IN SOMETHING

OF A DILEMMA IN PUSHING FOR MFA EXTENSION IN LIGHT OF G-77 POSITION IN THE MANILA DECLARATION CALLING FOR ABOLITION OF THE MFA. LONG ALSO INQUIRED WHEN THE U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO BRAZILIAN PROPOSALS IN THE FRAMEWORK GROUP AND WHETHER U.S. WAS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN A CG-18 MEETING IN MAY OR JUNE.

3. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS ALSO MET WITH AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DOUG ANTHONY. ANTHONY REPEATED STRONG AUSTRALIAN CRITICISM OF U.S. SUGAR PROPOSAL WHICH HAD BEEN MADE PREVIOUSLY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ (REFTEL). HE OPINED THAT THE CURRENT FIRMING OF SUGAR PRICES WAS SPECULATIVE AND THAT, ABSENT A NEW AGREEMENT, PRICES DURING THE BALANCE OF THE YEAR WOULD FALL BACK TO LAST YEAR'S LEVELS. ANTHONY ALSO EXHIBITED A LIVELY INTEREST IN A GRAINS ARRANGEMENT, SUGGESTING THAT A PROPOSAL FOR WHEAT, ALONG THE LINES OF THE U.S. SUGAR PROPOSAL, WOULD BE PROMISING. HE NOTED THE DESIRABILITY OF WHEAT EXPORTING NATIONS ARRIVING AT A COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON WHAT SORT OF COURSE TO PURSUE ON A GRAINS ARRANGEMENT IN THE MTN. HE AND AMBASSADOR STRAUSS AGREED TO TRY TO GET TOGETHER NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON TO PURSUE THIS SUBJECT FURTHER AFTER ANTHONY'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND.

4. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS HAD A GET-ACQUAINTED SESSION WITH KEY MTN PLAYERS (AMBASSADOR MACIEL, BRAZIL; AMBASSADOR GREY, CANADA; AMBASSADOR SAWAKI, JAPAN; AND MR. LUYTEN, EC). STRAUSS REITERATED THE THEME OF STRONG U.S. COMMITMENT IN THE MTN AND THE NEED TO GET SERIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BARGAINING UNDERWAY PROMPTLY AFTER THE SUMMIT. AMBASSADOR SAWAKI SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS PREFERABLE TO WAIT UNTIL ECONOMIES WERE IN BETTER SHAPE BUT WAS POINTEDLY REMINDED BY AMBASSADOR STRAUSS THAT JAPAN WAS ENJOYING A FAVORABLE TRADE POSITION AND THAT THE U.S. FELT IT WAS TIME FOR JAPAN TO REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. AMBASSADOR GREY PROBED FOR U.S. THINKING ON A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE FOR REACHING A TARIFF-CUTTING HYPOTHESIS, FIRST FLOATING AND THEN BACKING AWAY FROM A SUGGESTION THAT MAJOR COUNTRIES MIGHT REACH A GENERAL AND INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING BEFORE SUMMER ON A TARIFF-CUTTING PLAN BUT DELAYING ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL LATER IN THE YEAR WHEN CONDITIONS WERE BETTER. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, AMBASSADOR STRAUSS EXPLAINED THE SITUATION RESULTING FROM THE ZENITH DECISION AND UNDERSCORED THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH IT IS VIEWED BY THE USG. HE ALSO LET AMBASSADOR SAWAKI KNOW THAT HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE JAPANESE POSITION ON TELEVISION SET EXPORTS TO THE U.S.

5. WE WILL REPORT PRESS COVERAGE BY SEPTTEL.WALKER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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